

POST ADMINISTRATION  
YEARS

DRAWER 2 MRS. LINCOLN - LATER YEARS

71.2009.085.04452



# Mary Todd Lincoln

## Post-Administration Years

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Treasury Department

May 17th 1865

Dear Madam,

I have the honor to enclose to you a letter from my friend, Mr. W. Reynolds, President of the LaFayette-Indianapolis Rail Road Company, tendering to you a passenger car for yourself and accompanying friends when you shall have occasion to pass over the road.

With sentiments of the highest respect, and with best wishes for your own health and that of your family.

I am, Very truly yours

H. McCulloch

Mrs. Lincoln

Executive Mansion

*Gold Medal Presented to Mrs. Lincoln in 1866 by Forty Thousand  
Citizens of France*

*This medal was presented to the Library of Congress in Washington in 1928 by  
the heirs of Robert T. Lincoln*



Paris a 15 Octobre 1866,

Madame,

Vous sommes chargés de nous offrir la médaille qui ont fait frapper, en l'honneur du grand honnête homme dont vous portez le nom, plus de 10,000 Citoyens Français désireux de manifester leurs sympathies pour l'Union Américaine; dans la personne de l'un de ses plus illustres et de ses plus purs représentants.

Si la France possédait les libertés dont jouit l'Amérique républicaine, ce n'est pas par milliers, mais par millions que seraient comptés avec nous les admirateurs de Lincoln, et les partisans d'opinions auxquelles il voua sa vie, et que sa mort a condamnées.

Veuillez agréer, Madame, l'hommage de notre profond respect.

### Les membres du Comité

Thomas Braga Ch. L. Masson Ch. Gropius Emile G. Bickel  
Eug. Virey E. Breyss E. Monnier  
Albert J. M. Michel Adolphe Martin  
W. Gaufrange E. Maréchal I. Delord E. Jouneau  
J. V. Marzin Eugène Guinet J. Schatzkoff Louis Blanc  
Eugène Pelletan Victor Hugo

REDUCED FACSIMILE OF THE LETTER ACCOMPANYING THE FRENCH MEDAL  
SIGNED BY A COMMITTEE OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS

---

*Illinois Given  
Baker Painting  
By Mrs. Lincoln*

The oil painting of Col. E. D. Baker which is the property of Illinois was presented to the state by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, July 8, 1872. The presentation was made through John T. Stuart and the story appeared in the Journal of the following day.

"Yesterday," says The Journal. "Mrs. Lincoln, widow of the late President Lincoln, presented to the state through Hon. John T. Stuart the very fine oil painting of the late Col. E. D. Baker, one of the favorite sons of Illinois. Colonel Baker was killed at Ball's Bluff by gallantly leading his men in a charge upon rebel forces. The portrait will be hung in the executive mansion by Governor Palmer."

**¶** Mrs. ABRAHAM LINCOLN was a visitor at Kilbourn City, last week, having gone thither for the purpose of viewing the famous Dells near the village. She came and departed without informing any one who she was. The last *Mirror* says:

A few evenings since, a fairish, healthy-looking elderly lady, came to the Tanner House. She appeared perfectly familiar with hotel ways, was neither brazen nor timid, and appeared in all respects a lady of culture and wealth, in manner and dress. Next morning she asked host Ribenack what facilities there were for making the tour of the Dells, and said she came to view them. Mr. R. sent a boatman with her, who reports that she was timid in the rough places, but was enthusiastic in expressions of her admiration of the scenery. Said she had enjoyed a tour of the Rhine; been in very many of the grandest places of Europe, and had visited most of the watering places of America; but had often felt chagrined to admit that she had never been at the most renowned one of her native State, the Mammoth Cave, and that she purposed to go there soon. Returning she expressed much gladness that she had been through the famous Dells, paid the boatman and thanked him for his fidelity, and the next day departed, leaving only one person in town wiser for the fact that Mrs. Abraham Lincoln had been here *incog.*, and requested him not to make public the fact until after her departure, as she desired a quiet time to herself, like other folks.

#### CURRENT PARAGRAPHS.

##### Personal and Literary.

—H. W. Beecher began public life as a writer on the *Cincinnati Gazette*.

—A piece of President Grant's handiwork as a tanner is being exhibited at Vienna.

—Mrs. Abraham Lincoln is at St. Catherines, Canada, where she will pass the summer.

—Hon. John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, who has been a long time an invalid, is summering on the banks of the Hudson, near West Point. **July 4, 1873**

# TELLS OF INSULTS TO LINCOLN'S WIFE

Dr. Wistar Brown Says She Went  
Abroad Partly to Escape Attacks  
on Her Patriotism

"WAS TRUE TO THE UNION"  
Philadelphia, Jan. 2-2-09

Facts which he says have never before been published regarding Mrs. Lincoln's sojourn abroad four years after her husband's assassination, were related today by Dr. Wistar P. Brown, 46 W. Chelten ave., Germantown. Dr. Brown was for ten years court dentist at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, where the widow of the martyred President and her "Tad," lived a short time prior to their own deaths.

Declaring that Mrs. Lincoln left this country largely for the reason that she was the victim of insults from society folk and newspapers of the North, some of which even accused her of being a traitor at heart to the cause of the Union, Dr. Brown pictures her sorrowful and secluded life and her refutation in word and act of the calumnies.

Dr. Brown, at the time of which he speaks, was a boy who lived with his parents at Frankfort-on-the-Main. His father was then the leading court dentist of Southern and Middle Germany, and the family became intimately acquainted with Mrs. Lincoln and her son, when they arrived in that country. The fact that a brother of Mrs. Brown, formerly a clerk in the War Department, had written President Lincoln's first emancipation proclamation at dictation and knew Mr. Lincoln well contributed to the friendly feeling of the President's widow toward the dentist's family.

Mr. Brown said:

"A few days ago I came upon the idea that while many others were compiling articles about the Lincoln family, it would only be just for me, who had seen Mrs. Lincoln and her son, 'Tad,' almost daily in Frankfort-on-the-Main, during her stay there, in 1869-70, to tell a few facts of her visit. There were several reasons which caused Mrs. Lincoln to leave America for Europe, the main one being to evade the in-

sults of the American newspapers and society folk, who even went so far as to report her a traitor to the Northerners' cause during the Rebellion.

## DESCRIBES TAD'S PRANKS.

"She proved herself to us in Frankfort in heart and action true always to the Union, but naturally enough became quite hysterical and wept loudly when the name of her illustrious husband was mentioned. At Frankfort-on-the-Main she could live in quiet on one-fifth the money required in America, avoid all social functions, take the curative waters of the famous bathing resorts within a radius of ten miles, and educate her son, 'Tad,' at a German school under her daily vision.

"When Mrs. Lincoln started from America she had twelve immense trunks, and by some mistake of the forwarding agents, they were all lost for several months, and as they contained a great many valuables, besides much-needed clothing, Mrs. Lincoln was for a time almost distracted about them. The United States Consul, W. W. Murphy, in Frankfort, finally, through constant endeavor with railroad officials, discovered that they had been stored away in a freight depot in Geneva, Switzerland. The Consul being a warm friend of my father, Dr. Samuel Townsend Brown, who was then the leading court dentist of Southern and Middle Germany, including among his patients several emperors and queens, told him that he had secured a couple of small rooms for Mrs. Lincoln a few doors from our home, and wished that my mother would make her a friendly call, as she appeared very sad and lonely.

"My mother and sister called almost daily upon her, taking flowers and little delicacies at times, but she for a long time seemed cheerless. In the meantime 'Tad' came frequently to our house to meals and to play games with us children after school. We went skating and sledding together, to the opera, the theatre, and concerts.

"Once, I was very much in fear that my German sled had been stolen from its hiding place under our porch one evening, but later found that Tad had run off with it for the purpose of bringing my sister Laura, who is now dead, home from school, a half mile away in the Hochstrasse. This little trick he played on me as long as the snow lasted, as my school class left out an hour later than his.

## AMERICAN COLONY UNFRIENDLY.

"Although, the Americans of Frankfort and Hornburg vor der Hohe never had a good word for Mrs. Lincoln, my mother felt she could never do enough for her, if nothing else than for having been the wife of our great President. After some time Mrs. Lincoln became quite sociable with us all, and would drop in at any time of the day, while Tad quite felt himself one of our family. We always exchanged birthday presents, and on the walls of my Chelten ave. dental

office hangs a dog's head in iron, with a twig in its mouth to be used as a clothes-rack, presented by Tad on my birthday in February, 1870, when the Lincolns were both at my party. Mrs. Lincoln, on that occasion, presented me with an immense Mazapan or Russian almond meal cake, bearing with others the inscription in a wreath the words, 'Union forever.'

"When Mrs. Lincoln's trunks arrived, she asked permission of my father to have them stored in our attic. My sister became a great favorite with both Tad and his mother, and I often heard her remark in Tad's presence: 'Laura, you are to have this most precious of all gifts to President Lincoln, his diamond ring. When I am dead and gone, I shall will it to you.' As Tad died a few months after arriving from Europe, and his mother a few years later, July 16, 1873, at Springfield, Ill., from the result of a paralytic stroke, before which for some time she was not capable of carrying on her business affairs, my sister, of course, never heard anything more of the ring.

"Tad attended Dr. Hohagen's private boarding school on the Kettenhofweg, Frankfort-on-Main, near the present City Opera House. He was very good hearted, and though somewhat over-indulged by his mother's adorations, was in all his mind and actions a perfect type of his father's disposition. His mother, while in Frankfort, never attended any reception or any kind of public amusement, and generally kept to her rooms, which, in the latter part of her stay she rented in the Mainzerlandstrasse, where she was in constant view of the beautiful Taunus Valley and mountains. Tad was beloved by his small circle of schoolboy friends and I feel that his death was sufficient to unbalance the mind of the idolizing mother. In Frankfort she never went anywhere without him at her side."

Route 2, Box 258,  
Palatine, Illinois.  
December 20, 1940.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor,  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren;

In thinking over reasons for gratitude during the past year, one of the outstanding ones is for the pleasure I have received in my Lincoln study and for the aid I have received and Lincoln Lore has been of the greatest interest.

I promised when I wrote you that I would send such items of interest as I thought might prove of aid to you since I have access to many small town papers but so far have been collecting instead of arranging what I have. However after Christmas I hope to begin putting together what I have. I was fortunate enough to receive a large number of clippings about Lincoln that were published in a Wisconsin paper. The papers were found in an old attic. They told for instance of Mrs. Lincoln's visiting The Dells, incognito. Various interviews of prominent men with Lincoln are recorded in a series called, I believe, Interviews with Lincoln. There is an account of Mrs. Lincoln's visit to Canada. This may all be known to you but if there is any part of it I can copy for you I shall be happy to do so.

A cousin in Savannah, Georgia, sent me tearsheets from many southern papers this year and I was glad to see how much attention they paid to Lincoln.

While in Mr. Dicke's shop in Evanston I was told how much material had been purchased by Lincoln National Life from him. I had not known there was a Museum in Fort Wayne and am hoping to visit it some time.

I have my father's copy of Z.A. Mudge's Forest Boy but have been unable to find any other copy of it in any book store. Neither can I find any account of the life of the author in any source I have tried. I also had a copy of J.H.B.'s Life of Lincoln and ~~was~~ told copies of it are very rare but did not keep it. If you ever want another copy of the book I know where you can secure it though the original cover is gone.

I have tried to make a study of tributes paid to Lincoln in advertising this year. I have found some good material but would appreciate a list of those firms using his name in advertising if possible.

I wish to thank you for all the helpful aid you have given me in the past year and hope I may be able to unearth some things that might help you some time.

Sincerely,

*Ann Carr*

Ann Carr

# Mary Lincoln's Christmas in Chicago

By Stefan Lorant

[Author of "The Presidency"]

Christmas day, 1874, was a wretched one for Mary Lincoln. Almost 10 years had gone by since she had lost her husband, but the memory of that tragic night at Ford's theater was still fresh in her soul. She was alone in her little hotel room in Florida; low in spirit, without friends, and still mourning the death of her son, Tad.

She was haunted by strange visions. Frightened and bewildered, her thoughts flew to Chicago, where her only surviving son, Robert, was living. For weeks she had been wondering and worrying, her mind heavy with dark images. Then, when she could not bear it any longer, she telegraphed the family doctor and her son that she was coming to Chicago. Both the doctor and Robert asked her to stay in Florida, but Mary, caught in her hallucinations, had boarded a train at Jacksonville and was racing northward.

Upon her arrival she refused to go to Robert's house, but took lodgings at the Grand Pacific hotel and begged Robert to stay with her. She passed her first night in nervous trepidation. Every now and then she would tap at her son's door, only to speak a few words and hear his answer. The following morning she ran, clad only in her nightgown, to the elevator, and, when Robert tried to lead her back, she screamed: "You are going to murder me."

One day, when she was calmer, she went out shopping and spent a huge sum for things for which she had no use. She paid for three watches, \$450; for jewelry, \$700; for soaps and perfumes, \$200; and she bought 17 pairs of gloves, three dozen handkerchiefs, a num-

ber of lace curtains, a great amount of sashes and ribbons.

Robert was driven to desperation. What should he do with her? He consulted old friends, and they advised him that she would best be taken care of in an institution. So Mary Lincoln was brought to



Mary Todd Lincoln

trial and, after the testimony of witnesses, the jury decided that she was "to be sent to the State Hospital for the Insane."

The day after the "insanity hearing" she sneaked away from her room and, rushing to the nearby drugstore, demanded some laudanum and camphor. Recognizing her, the druggist told her to return for the drugs in half an hour's time. Mary next tried the Grand Pacific drug store, where she was given a bottle of colored camphor water labelled "Laudanum and Camphor." As soon as she reached the street she swallowed the contents. Then she returned to the store and asked for some more. Again the concoction was given to her and once more she drank it. She had no desire to live any more.

Robert, quickly summoned, consulted with the doctors and a few

hours later Mary Lincoln was taken to the private sanitarium of Dr. R. J. Patterson at Batavia.

For ten whole weeks she was in the institution, all the time fighting for her release, bombarding friends with letters. Finally she was allowed to leave. She went to Springfield to stay with her sister.

The house to which she returned was the same one where 33 years before she had married Abraham Lincoln—a house of happy and blissful memories.

There she lowered the curtains in her room; daylight hurt her eyes. There, between candlelight and shadows, she spent another Christmas, desperate and bitter against the world.

In the spring her case was reopened. This time the jury declared that "Mary Lincoln is restored to reason and is capable to manage her estate."

Once again she was free. Once again she had command of her money. What was she to do?

She sailed for Europe, hiding out, putting the ocean between her and her former life.

For a while she stayed in France; then, with cold weather coming on, she moved to Italy. Robert did not know where she was. With her other friends she communicated little.

Christmas came, another one, and once more she endured it alone in her lonely hotel room. If

she looked thru her window she could see the sea; she could ponder and wonder. Thousands of miles away the waves dashed against the reefs of her homeland, where once she had been the First Lady, where once she had a loving husband and where three of her sons now were buried.

Outside her room voices sang of Christmas and the birth of Jesus; inside her the voices spoke of hopelessness and death.

"Life is indeed a heavy burden, and I do not care how soon I am called hence," she wrote to a friend. She had nothing to look forward to. She once revealed her innermost thoughts when she said: "In this great trial, it is difficult to be taught resignation. The only comfort that remains to us is the blessed consolation that our beloved ones are rejoicing in their Heavenly Home, free from all earthly trials and in the holy presence of God and his angels, and are singing the praises of the

Redeemer. I pray God to grant me sufficient grace to await His time, for I long to be at rest. Without my idolized husband, I do not wish to remain on earth."

So she prayed once, so she prayed on this Christmas, so she prayed the rest of her life.

Old Letters Reveal:

## Mrs. Lincoln Was Distressed At Suggestion That She Live In Old Springfield Residence

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 6 —

Eight hitherto unpublished letters of widowed Mary Todd Lincoln reveal she was distressed in 1866 at a suggestion she live in Abraham Lincoln's old Springfield residence with its strong memories of a dead son and husband.

She died at her sister's home in Springfield in 1882 and is buried there in the tomb with her husband and three of their four sons.

King V. Hostick, a Springfield collector, today identified the letters as being signed by Mrs. Lin-

coln a year after Abraham Lincoln's assassination in 1865.

Then she was living, apparently in financial hardship, in a Chicago boarding house with her sons Robert and Tad. Efforts were being made by Simon Cameron to raise \$20,000 or more to aid her purchase of a home.

Her letters were addressed to Cameron, who had been secretary of war in Lincoln's first administration.

The letters do not disclose the

disposition of Lincoln's net estate of \$110,296, left to Mrs. Lincoln and the then surviving children, Robert and Tad.

In later years, Congress granted Mrs. Lincoln an annual pension of \$5,000 and a gift of \$15,000. The Springfield home was given by Robert Lincoln to Illinois in 1887.

Referring to a Judge Davis, Mrs. Lincoln in an April, 1866 letter quoted the judge as saying she should return to Springfield and live.

"After the many years of happiness there with my idolized husband, to place me in the home deprived of his presence and the darling boy, we lost in Washington (Willie), it would not require a day for me to lose my entire reason," she wrote.

"After the death of my little Willie, my loving and indulgent husband told me, that he would never carry me back to a place which would remind us both of so great a loss."

Mrs. Lincoln said "living in a boarding house is most revolting to my sons and myself" and would have been "a most aggravating sorrow" to Lincoln. She asked Cameron to destroy the letters.

The 151st anniversary of Lincoln's birth will be observed Friday.

***Collector Finds Letters Written by  
Mary Todd Lincoln***

Newly discovered letters written by Abraham Lincoln's wife have provoked an old question — would Lincoln, had he lived, returned to Springfield to live?

The letters were recently acquired by dealer KING V. HOSTICK from the Pennsylvania heirs of Simon Cameron, secretary of war in the early days of Lincoln's administration.

The eight letters were written a year after the death of Lincoln, by Mary Todd Lincoln from Chicago, and their primary concern was Cameron's help in raising money for her to purchase a residence.

"Living in a boarding house is most revolting to my sons and myself," she said in one of the letters.

About coming back to Springfield, she said "As we were leaving its doors (the Lincoln home here) en route to Washington, my dear husband told me that he would not carry me back there again. Therefore in settling in Chicago I am only carrying out the intentions of my lamented husband."

She also commented on efforts of civic leaders at the time to raise a Lincoln monument in Springfield. Mrs. Lincoln looked upon these efforts as ones "to force us back to Springfield, but I would eat the bread of poverty first here."

Mrs. Lincoln returned to Springfield to the home of her sister to die. Mrs. Lincoln a short time previously had been committed for a while in an institution.

Biographers have clashed over the question of Mrs. Lincoln and the rationality of many of her writings. Many have claimed she was obsessed with the fear of poverty.

**SISTER FRANCES DIES**

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 1—(UP)—  
Sister Frances, 86, who nursed Mary  
Todd Lincoln, wife of the Civil War  
president, and who was one of the  
founders of St. John's hospital  
here, died yesterday following an  
illness of several weeks. She was  
born in Westfalen, Germany.



$\{ \cdot \}$   $\rightarrow \{ \cdot \}$

$\mathcal{S}$

1

